the Railway Administration. Action on the immediate recommendations given in the Preliminary Report has been initiated by the Railway.

Rishikesh-Dehradun link Railway line

3513. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for Rishikesh-Dehradun link Railway line;

(b) whether his Ministry is aware that Rishikesh is the most popular pilgrimage and tourist centre;

(c) whether there is any further plan to have more trains going to Rishikesh or attaching compartments with other trains which go upto Haridwar; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to have more shuttle services between Rishikesh and Haridwar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir, However, Rishikesh and Dehradun are already connected by Railway line *via* Raiwala.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Increase in running time of trains

3514. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been increase in the original running time of various Shatabdi and Jan Shatabdi express trains over the years;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the increase in running time of these trains which are meant to connect major cities in minimum possible time; and

(c) wheat steps can be initiated to restore the original status of these trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Running times of some of the Shatabdi/Jan Shatabdi trains have been increased marginally. However, some of the Shatabdi/Jan Shatabdi trains have also been speeded up.

(b) Due to provision of additional stoppages, speed restrictions and other operational factors.

(c) Steps like increasing the sectional speed, eliminating the speed restrictions, utilization of high powered locomotives, rationalization of stoppages etc. are taken for speeding up of trains, which are onging exercise.

Modernisation of stations under Southern Railway

3515. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of railway stations under Southern Railway which have been selected for modernisation as announced in the last Railways budget;